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Litargus (*Litargus*) *arabicus* sp. nov., a new species from Oman and Yemen, with list of Mycetophagidae (Coleoptera) species recorded from the Arabian Peninsula

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Keywords:

Coleoptera; Mycetophagidae; *Litargus*; *arabicus*; taxonomy; new species; description; Arabian Peninsula; Oman; Yemen.

Abstract. – *Litargus* (*Litargus*) *arabicus* **sp**. **nov**. from Oman and Yemen is described, illustrated and compared with similar species.

Háva J., 2025. – *Litargus* (*Litargus*) *arabicus* **sp**. **nov**., a new species from Oman and Yemen, with list of Mycetophagidae (Coleoptera) species recorded from the Arabian Peninsula. *Faunitaxys*, 13(21): 1 – 2.

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Introduction

The mycetophagid genus *Litargus* Erichson, 1846 is currently divided in two subgenera *Litargus* s. str. and *Litargosomus* Motschulsky, 1858 and includes 90 species worldwide (Háva 2022, 2024, 2025). During the determination of some unidentified material deposited in the National Museum, Prague and the author´s collection, a new species from Oman and Yemen belonging to *Litargus* s. str., was discovered and herein described.

Material and Methods

The material is deposited in the following collections:

JHAC: Jiří Háva, Private Entomological Laboratory & Collection, Únětice u Prahy, Prague-West, Czech Republic;

NMPC: National Museum, Praha, Czech Republic (J. Hájek).

The size of beetles or of their body parts can be useful in species recognition and thus, the following measurements were made:

total length (TL) - linear distance from anterior margin of head to apex of elytra.

elytral width (EW) - maximum linear transverse distance.

Specimens of the presently described species are provided with red, printed label with text as follows: „HOLOTYPE [or PARATYPE] *Litargus* (*Litargus*) *arabicus* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2025".

Results

Litargus Erichson, 1846

***Litargus* (*Litargus*) *arabicus* sp. nov.**

(Fig. 1-2)

ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/B2E79A65-17AA-47AA-9112-E6772E40F6A1

Holotype, ♀, Oman, Dhofar gov., Ain Ayun pools, at light., 657 m, 17°14.8´N 53°53.3´´E, 24.x.2019, J. Hájek & A. Reiter lgt., (NMPC).

Paratype, **1** ♀, E Yemen, Jabal al Fatk, Hawf NE Al Ghaydah, N16°40´E53°05´, 729 m, 12-13.x.2005, P. Kabátek lgt., (JHAC).

Description

Body. – Measurements TL 2.7 mm, EW 1.2 mm; oblong-oval, subparallel-sided; weakly convex dorsally, weakly glossy; brown on dorsal and ventral surfaces, covered with short, brown recumbent setation.

Head. – Brown, finely punctate; covered by brown, recumbent setation; labrum brown; eyes prominent laterally in dorsal view, coarsely faceted and slightly emarginate near antennal insertions; antennae with 11 antennomeres, entirely brown with brown setation, antennal club with three antennomeres (Fig. 2); palpomeres brown, apical maxillary palpomere large, cylindrical.

Pronotum. – Brown, flat, finely punctured, covered with brown recumbent setation; widest at base, gradually narrowed anteriad and posteriad; anterior margin slightly arcuate; sides roundly arcuate; basal margin sinuate, without short and circular grooves on subbasal parts.

Scutellum. – Transverse, apically rounded, with short recumbent brown setation.

Elytra. – Brown without colour patterns, finely punctate without striae, covered by brown recumbent setation, elongate, subparallel-sided, narrowed from apical 1/4 to apex. Epipleuron brown, covered with brown recumbent setation. Meta-meso ventrite brown, with brown recumbent setation. Prosternal process broad.

Legs. – Entirely brown with brown spines, covered with yellow recumbent setation. Tibiae with long brown spines apically.

Abdominal visible ventrites. – Brown, covered with brown recumbent setation.

Pygidium. – Brown, covered with brown recumbent setation.

Male. – Unknown.

Etymology. – Toponymic, named after the Arabian Peninsula.

Differential diagnosis. – The new species is externally similar to *Litargus conradti* Grouvelle, 1914 („German West Africa"; Ivory Coast), *L. ater* Grouvelle, 1914 (Gabon; Ivory Coast) and *L. unicolor* Grouvelle, 1914 (Cameroon; São Tome and Principe), but differs from them by the following characters:

Reviewer : Vladimír Novák (*Praha, Czech Republic*) - https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9287-2014 - https://zoobank.org/D5C7B806-1C9E-4C99-944A-13A71EE01B79

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- Pronotum and elytra brown, with brown setation; pronotal punctuation fine; scutellum transverse, apically rounded; elytra finely punctate without striae . . . . . ***arabicus***

- Pronotum and elytra brown with yellow setation; pronotal punctuation fine; scutellum subtrapezoidal, apically broadly rounded; elytra finely punctate with striae from large punctures . . . . . ***unicolor***

- Pronotum and elytra brownish-black with yellow setation; 3rd antennomere length same as 4th antennomere; pronotal punctuation coarse; scutellum transverse, apically rounded; yellow elytral setae forming striae . . . . . ***condradti***

- Pronotum and elytra black with black setation; 3rd antennomere with same length as 4th antennomere; scutellum transverse, apically rough; elytra with visible striae from small punctures . . . . . ***ater***

Acknowledgements

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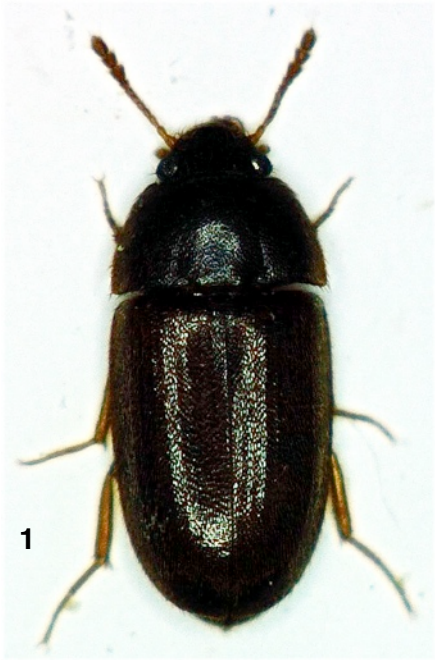

Fig. **1-2**. *Litargus* (*Litargus*) *arabicus* **sp**. **nov**. **1**. Body, dorsal. **2**. Antennae.

List of Mycetophagidae recorded from Arabian Peninsula.

	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Yemen	United Arab Emirates
Litargus arabicus **sp**. **nov**.		*	*	
Litargus balteatus LeConte, 1856				*
Litargus connexus (Geoffroy, 1785)	*	*		
Litargus kolbei Grouvelle, 1914	*		*	
Typhaea stercorea (Linnaeus, 1758)	*	*	*	*

Résumé

Háva J., 2025. – *Litargus* (*Litargus*) *arabicus* **sp**. **nov**., une nouvelle espèce d'Oman et du Yémen, avec la liste des Mycetophagidae (Coleoptera) recensées dans la péninsule arabique. *Faunitaxys*, 13(21): 1 – 2.

Litargus (*Litargus*) *arabicus* **sp**. **nov**. d'Oman et du Yémen est décrit, illustré et comparé aux espèces voisines.

Mots-clés. – Coleoptera, Mycetophagidae, *Litargus*, *arabicus*, taxonomie, espèce nouvelle, description, péninsule arabique, Oman, Yémen.

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Illustration de la couverture :

Le djebel Akhdar, 3018 m (« la montagne verte »), constitue le massif principal des monts Hajar, une imposante chaîne de montagnes au nord d'Oman.

Crédits:

Jiří Háva: Fig. 1-2.

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